

BILLS INTRODUCED IN THE 88TH CONGRESS TO AMEND THE
FEDERAL FIREARMS ACT

SENATE BILLS:

S. 1975 - Introduced by Senator Dodd for himself, Mr. Bayh,
Mr. Ervin and Mr. Fong

This bill grew out of the hearings before the Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency of the Judiciary Committee (Part 14 - Interstate Traffic in Mail Order Firearms -- January 29 and 30, March 7, and May 1 and 2, 1963). As introduced, the bill was designed primarily to regulate so-called "mail-order" shipments of handguns. In addition, the bill contained many other clarifying and strengthening amendments to the Federal Firearms Act, suggested by the Treasury Department, to the Dodd Committee in March 1963.

On November 27, 1963, following the assassination, Senator Dodd offered amendments to the bill extending the "mail-order" provisions to cover all firearms and requiring a certificate from a local law enforcement officer to be forwarded with the order for the gun.

On December 2, 1963, Senator Dodd offered a substitute amendment deleting the requirement for the certificate of the chief local law enforcement officer, and providing in lieu

- 2 -

thereof for notification by registered mail, return receipt requested, of the local authorities before a firearm is shipped.

The Treasury Department favorably reported to the Senate Commerce Committee on the bill (as introduced) on November 14, 1963. A subsequent report dealing with the amendments of November 27, 1964, was submitted on December 2, 1963, and the Treasury Department advised the Commerce Committee at a hearing on December 18, 1963, that the Department favored the later amendments.

Public hearings on S. 1975 and S. 2345 were held by the Commerce Committee on December 13 and 18, 1963, and January 23, 24 and 30 and March 4, 1964.

The Commerce Committee took no action subsequent to the hearings with respect to these bills.

On August 7, 1964, the Judiciary Committee issued a report (Senate Report No. 1340, 88th Cong., 2nd Sess.) on the "Interstate Traffic in Mail Order Firearms" urging the enactment of S. 1975. However, this did not mean that the bill was reported to the Senate since the bill was under the jurisdiction of the Commerce Committee.

- 3 -

S. 2345 - Mr. Scott

This bill contains two principal amendments to the Federal Firearms Act. The first is designed to deal with the so-called "mail-order" transactions by requiring a sworn statement from a local police officer to accompany the order for the gun, and the second relates to record keeping and disclosures of information to local law enforcement officers.

On December 10, 1963, the Department advised the Commerce Committee that the objectives of the bill could better be accomplished by the enactment of S. 1975.

HOUSE BILLS:

H. R. 8004 - Mr. Moorhead

Same as preliminary draft of S. 1975.

H. R. 8081 - Mr. Halpern

Same as S. 1975 as introduced.

H. R. 8174 - Mr. Moorhead

Identical to S.1975 as introduced.

H. R. 8176 - Mr. Murphy

Identical to S. 1975 as introduced. The Department favorably reported to the Committee on Ways and Means on this bill on November 14, 1963.

- 4 -

H. R. 9239 - Mr. Fulton of Tennessee

Same as S. 1975 as introduced.

H. R. 9266 - Mrs. Green

Same as S. 1975 as introduced.

H. R. 9347 - Mr. Halpern

Same as S. 1975 with November 27, 1963 amendments.

H. R. 9504 - Mr. Multer

Same as S. 1975 with November 27, 1963 amendments.

H. R. 9315 - Mr. Joelson

This bill would require that firearms shipped to non-licensees in interstate commerce be shipped through the local police officers.

H. R. 9327 - Mr. Teague

Similar to H. R. 9315.

H. R. 9390 - Mr. Glenn

Similar to H. R. 9315.

H. R. 9348 - Mr. Hays

This bill would prohibit interstate shipment of firearms except to licensed dealers or licensed manufacturers, and would prohibit all firearms from being mailed to non-licensed individuals.

- 5 -

H. R. 9323 - Mr. Karsten

Similar to S. 1975 in many respects, but contains much more stringent provisions concerning movement of firearms in interstate or foreign commerce, as well as very strict conditions on obtaining licenses and greatly increased license fees. The Department reported to the Committee on Ways and Means on December 10, 1963, expressing certain reservations concerning certain provisions of the bill. When this bill was brought up by Mr. Karsten at the Executive Sessions of the Ways and Means Committee, he stated Treasury and Justice Departments had reservations concerning certain provisions and that it was proposed to revise the bill in order to make it acceptable to these departments.

H. R. 9471 is a revision of H. R. 9323 designed to overcome the objections expressed by Treasury and Justice.

H. R. 9471 - Mr. Karsten

This bill is in the nature of a revision of H. R. 9323 designed to overcome the reservations expressed by the Department of Justice and Treasury Department in their report on that bill. The Treasury Department submitted a favorable report to the Committee on Ways and Means on H. R. 9471 in January 1964. Basically the bill would limit sales of firearms

in interstate and foreign commerce to sales between licensed manufacturers and dealers (there would be no mail order shipments to individuals); prohibit over-the-counter sales to non-residents of the state, increase license fees of dealers to \$100, pawnbrokers \$200, and manufacturers to \$300, as well as incorporate the technical and clarifying changes in S. 1975 which were largely suggested by the Treasury Department to the Dodd Committee.

H. R. 9504 - Mr. Multer

Same as S. 1975 with November 1963 amendments.

H. R. 9757 - Mr. Lindsay

Would restrict commercial shipments in interstate or foreign commerce to shipments between licensed manufacturers and licensed dealers.

H. R. 9961 - Mr. Barrett

Somewhat similar to Senator Scott's bill S. 2345.

H. R. 12647 - Mr. Milliken

Similar to S. 1975 with December 2, 1963 amendments.